



SQUADRON INFORMATION:

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MARINE CORPS AIR
STATION CHERRY
POINT

CHERRY POINT, NC
28533

SQUADRON DUTY
OFFICER NUMBER:

(252) 466-2719

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The Ironmen

The MWSS-274 Family and Friends Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 2

April 2010

WORDS FROM OUR COMMANDING OFFICER

Families and Friends of
the Ironmen,

Between 28 February and 11 March, nearly 600 Marines and Sailors departed Cherry Point bound for Afghanistan. After stops (and some unintended delays) in Maine, Ireland, Germany, Krgyzstan, and various bases across Afghanistan, our entire team was assembled in the southern Afghan province of Helmand.

Currently, our Marines and Sailors are disbursed across nine different locations providing Aviation Ground Support to Marine Aircraft Group 40 (MAG-40) in order to ensure continuous flying support to our Coalition brothers helping to secure the Afghan population. We assumed operational ownership of the mission on 25 March, and are providing services that include Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Security & Police Training, Construction & Electrical Power, Fuel, Medical Support, Weather Forecast-

ing, and everything in between (see "What We Do" later in this newsletter). In the various locations from which we are operating, the living conditions for your Marines and Sailors have spanned the spectrum from sleeping on the ground under the open sky, to large tents provided with heating and air conditioning. Most of our team has daily access to dining facilities (i.e. cafeteria), but some are still sustained by Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) and the occasional hot meal delivered in jugs.

Our unit headquarters is currently based out of Camp Barber where we work and live alongside the British and Danish forces, but we are in the process of moving all Marines/Sailors and capabilities to Camp Leatherneck which is approximately one mile away.

As the next few weeks pass, the majority of our Marines and Sailors will move into more permanent facilities (buildings)



where they will have slightly better living and working conditions. In the meantime, everyone is gainfully employed and enthusiastic about the mission. There is plenty of work to be done, and the entire team is leaning forward. That about sums up our current posture and situation. In next month's newsletter, I will try to provide some operational information that highlights the work being accomplished by your Marines and Sailors. Thanks for your continuing support and Semper Fidelis.

Respectfully,

LtCol Tony Ference

ROGER BELL SCHOOL ADOPTION

MWSS-274 was adopted by the 2nd Grade of a local elementary school. We are thrilled to be working with them to spread cheer and increase our Marine and Sailor's morale while providing educational enrichment to the children of the 2nd Grade.

Prior to our Marines leaving, a couple of our Motor Transport Marines had the opportunity to meet the children in the grade. The Marines explained where they are going, what they will be doing while deployed, and brought their gear to show the children what it looks like and feels like. The children volunteered to try on the gear to experience its weight and size.

Our Marines and 2nd Grade children, each have a Little Patriot stuffed bear with them, which will stay with them during the duration of the deployment. Pictures will be shared back and forth to illustrate how each group has been spending their time during the deployment.





FOCUS provides resiliency training for military families facing the challenges of a family member's deployment during wartime. Multiple deployments affect both the service member *and the* family as routines and roles are disrupted. Children may experience stress related to a parent's role in the Global War on Terror and the impact of Combat Operational Stress on family life. **FOCUS** uses family training techniques to highlight areas of strength and resilience in the family and promote family growth to help address current challenges. **FOCUS** provides structured activities to bridge gaps in shared family understanding that may follow stressful experiences and separations. In both group and individual family service settings, family members are taught skills to improve emotional regulation, problem solving, goal setting and communication.

There are 3 criteria that must be met for this service: you need to have a child age 4-18, one parent that has experienced a deployment of any kind, and time to participate in the program. This program is so great because it focuses on the entire family. It is broken down into 8 sessions. The first two are with the parents only, then the child(ren) meet the next 2 sessions, then the counselors meet with the parents for 2 more sessions, and the last 2 sessions include the entire family. In these sessions family members are taught skills to improve emotional regulation, problem solving, goal setting and communication. For more information you can visit the website below or you can contact Mrs. Jill Buria.

FOCUS (Families Over Coming Under Stress) <http://www.focusproject.org/index.html>



FAMILY READINESS HOTLINE:
LOCAL: 252-466-4388 Press 4 then 5
TOLL FREE: 866-242-0064 Press 4 then 5





FROM YOUR FAMILY READINESS OFFICER

Dear Ironman Families,

For some of you, April is a mile stone of one month accomplished, for others it means a few weeks under your belt. I cannot stress enough how important milestones are during a deployment. I will certainly try to plan at least one event per month and organize something to send to our Marines once every other month.

While I recognize that communication has been few and far between, making it seem like an eternity between phone calls

and emails, it's a great idea to keep a journal or to write your service member every day so that you don't feel like they are missing out on something. Photos also speak volumes to our Marines and Sailors and they look forward to any glimpse of home that they can get.

Over the next several months we will be having calendar making events in which there is a giant calendar that I need your help to decorate. Nothing brings more joy (other than a homecoming, of course) to these Marines and Sailors than

seeing their families with photos and messages displayed across a wall. See additional details in the description on page 5.

I am also open to starting groups such as a book club, running club or scrap-booking club. Just let me know and I will send it out to everyone!

Hang in there — it will be over before you know it!

Warmest regards,

Jill
Jill Buria
 252-626-5841
jill.buria@usmc.mil

THANK YOU



For all of those who attended and helped prepare for our Group Easter Egg Hunt! You made it successful for everyone!

CALENDAR EVENTS

I need your help to boost the morale in Afghanistan! I have done this project before and it seems to work very well. Families of our deployed MWSS-274 Marines and Sailors get together to create a large wall size calendar, made of construction paper to send to our unit. Family Members are encouraged to fill the calendar with pictures and written messages. The monthly calendar is assembled and shipped to the deployed Marines and Sailors for display in their common areas. Since our Marines will be moving around quite often, the Chaplain has offered to have the calendar travel with him to ensure everyone has the opportunity to see it and take pictures off of it that they wish to keep for themselves.

Participating in the calendar making is a great way to show your Marine how much you care and is also a wonderful time for families of MWSS-274 to get-together to socialize and to talk about shared experiences and challenges. If you do not live in the local area you may send photos to the FRO to be placed on the calendar, but please send them prior to the day of the event.

Our first calendar event will be in on April 17th at the STRIKE ZONE! (See flyer on page 13)

This is an example of what ours might look like! The more photos the better so send them to me as soon as you can!



Suggestions!

Jill wants to know what type of events you want to come to!

During this deployment, keeping busy is the key to success and I'd like to help you with that. Please let me know what type of events you would like to see over the next 6 months. The sky is the limit!

NEW! Amended List of Items Marines and Sailors are Requesting!

- Single Crystal Light packets
- Variety of nuts
- Phone Cards
- Letters/cards
- Sunflower seeds
- Wet Wipes/Baby Wipes
- Shaving cream
- Dried Fruit
- Hand Sanitizer
- Black Pens
- Tooth Paste
- Gum
- Q-tips
- Deodorant
- Air fresheners
- Military socks
- Fly traps
- Beef jerky
- Fruit candy/chewy candy

The temperatures in Southern Afghanistan are in the high 90s and reaching 100 degrees on most days. Our Marines are stationed, a good, long, walk from anything they are used to having. Think about items that you would enjoy if you were hot, had little access to stores and missed your family at home.

Top 10 Asked Question

1.) Q: What is the mailing address for the deployment?

A: This information can be found on our unit website

Rank/Complete Name
MWSS-274 (Work Section)
UNIT 78110
FPO, AE 09510-8110

2.) Q: What is my Marine's work section?

A: Your Marine's work section is going to be directly related to what he does. For example, if they worked at Bogue and refueled Aircraft then their section would be FUELS. If they working on maintenance on big trucks they are Motor-T Maintenance.

3.) Q: When are the Marines coming home?

A: The Marines are scheduled to return in October, although dates are never concrete and are subject to change.

4.) Q: What's my Marine doing?

A: The work schedule varies per Marine and type of duty may be different than what they are accustomed to here. Many of our Marines are diligently working to build an infrastructure with the Helmand Province.

5.) Q: Does the FRO know when each Marine transfers to a different camp? Would Jill know if they got there safely?

A: This type of information is extremely confidential and this information is not relayed in or-

der to protect our Marines. We have to maintain tight OPSEC (Operational Security) so movements should never be discussed among anyone.

6.) Q: What should I send in the care package?

A: You will find all suggested items listed on page 5. You can also visit the USPS website for additional information. Items prohibited include alcohol and pornographic material. Please be aware of the typical USPS regulations.

Deployed Mailing Address:
RANK/ COMPLETE NAME
MWSS-274 (Work Section) See next page for examples.
UNIT 78110
FPO, AE 09510-8110

Questions continued

7.) Q: How long is it taking for the Marines and Sailors to receive care packages?

A: The average time frame is typically 2-3 weeks, based on location. It is a good idea to send nonperishable items initially to see how long your package takes to get to your specific Marine or Sailor.

8.) Q: How often should I expect to hear from my Marine?

A: Due to limited communication assets Marines and Sailors only have access to morale lines once a week, and most Marines

do not have access to email. The most reliable form of communication continues to be USPS and www.Motomail.us, on occasion.

9.) Q: Is the FRO able to contact my Marine or Sailor if I have not heard from my Marine or Sailor?

A: The FRO is only able to send a message if it is an emergency in conjunction with a Red Cross message to make everyone aware that the Red Cross message is on the way.

10.) Q: What should I do if I need a POA, or a copy of Orders?

A: Jill can provide a copy of orders, please contact her via phone or send an email. A POA is a legal document that is created at Legal by the service member. If you lose yours or need one, you will have to contact your service member to obtain one.

More questions will be answered in upcoming newsletters.

Source: Weather Channel

Average Climate

MONTH	AVG HIGH TEMP	AVG LOW TEMP
APRIL	82	54
MAY	93	60
JUNE	102	67
JULY	104	72
AUGUST	100	68
SEPTEMBER	93	56

WORK SECTIONS

**MPCO 4th PLATOON
COMM**

S-1, S-2, S-3, OR S-4

AIR OPS EAFF

AIR OPS ARFF

AIR OPS FUELS

MTOPS

MTMAIN

MTHQ

CEPT

ENG HE

ENG HQ

FIELD MESS

WTHR

MEDICAL

ORDN

UTILITIES

**If you aren't sure, call the FRO
252/466.5082**

What We Do

The Marine Wing Support Squadron is organized and equipped to provide 14 functions of Aviation Ground Support to the Aviation Combat Element (Marine Corps' organic air force) in support of ground operations. In a nutshell, the 14 functions are as follows:

- **Airfield Communications:** Telephone, Internet (classified and unclassified), and Tactical Radio communications services for all Marine Aircraft Wing personnel & units.
- **Weather Forecasting:** for aviation & ground forces
- **Expeditionary Airfield Services:** Establish & Maintain Airfield Surface, Lights, and Markings.
- **Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting:** Fire Fighting services for the airfield and base camps. Ability to rescue and provide aid to personnel trapped in aircraft or vehicles.
- **Aircraft & Ground Refueling**
- **Explosive Ordnance Disposal:** Locating & eliminating explosive threats (such as roadside bombs). Disposing of unexploded ordnance that impacts aircraft flights.
- **Essential Engineer Services:** Electrical Power, Water Production, Air Conditioning & Heating, Construction of Roads, Airfields, and Buildings.
- **Motor Transport:** Movement of supplies & personnel within base and between bases.
- **Field Messing:** Provision of Food Services to Marine Aircraft Wing personnel & units.
- **Medical:** Provide & supervise Medical support to Marine Aircraft Wing personnel & units.
- **Individual & Unit Training:** Primarily vehicle & heavy equipment training & licensing.
- **Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Defense:** Planning & decontamination support to Marine Aircraft Wing personnel & units (not needed here in Afghanistan).
- **Security & Police Services:** Secure Marine Aircraft Wing assets, protect construction sites & convoys, train Afghan policemen.
- **Air Base Commandant:** Design & operate base camps (we have a limited role here).



Military HOMEFRONT

HOMEFRONTConnections**MWSS-274's site is officially ready for use!**

Log on to: <https://apps.mhf.dod.mil/homefrontconnections/index.jspa> and create an account. Let your FRO know you have created an account so she can approve you!

HOMEFRONT Connections was established to provide a social networking environment for those who are in the military, in a military family or who support the military and their families.

HOMERONT Connections provides a password protected location to meet online. Within the site, groups (or Communities, as we call them) can share best practices, post pictures and videos, or just talk about the work they are doing with others who are also supporting our service members and their families. This is also a place where family members can meet each other, or establish family readiness groups on-line. Information is not shared with marketers, nor will commercial groups advertise here.


CELEBRATING OVER 10 YEARS OF SPOUSE EDUCATION
LEARN TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF MARINE CORPS LIFE

466-5588

L.I.N.K.S.

Call 252-466-5588 to sign up!

What will you learn at L.I.N.K.S?

- Basic Pay and Benefits
- Community Resources
- Education Opportunities
- Health Care
- Housing Options
- What to know when moving

Upcoming classes:**LINKS FOR SPOUSES**

- Sat, April 10
9:00am-5:00pm
- Tues-Thus, May 4-6
5:30pm-8:30pm
- Tues-Wed June 23-24
9:00am-2:00pm
- Sat June 26
9:00am-5:00pm

LINKS FOR TEENS

- Wed June 23
1:00pm-6:00pm

LINKS FOR COUPLES

- Sat June 5
9:00am-5:00pm

LINKS FOR MENTORS

- Tues-Thus May 25-27
9:00am-12:00pm OR
5:30pm-8:30pm

**This a great activity
for you to do to pass
the time while they
are gone!**



NCO OF THE SECOND QUARTER**CPL HAYNES****MARINE OF THE
SECOND QUARTER****LCpl GADE****CWO3 Marvin Holcomb****GySgt James Jacobs****SSgt Gamaliel Romanestrada
SSgt Joseph Sanders Jr.****Sgt Daniel Chryssikos
Sgt Joseph Condrey
Sgt Matthew Gardner
Sgt Sean Hinds
Sgt Juan Melendez
Sgt Ricardo Qunitanilla
Sgt Lewis Reid
Sgt Ygnacio Veldez****Cpl Kenneth Adams
Cpl Brendin Boele
Cpl Steven Byrd
Cpl Dallas Carter
Cpl Elena Changojerez
Cpl Travis Clay
Cpl Nathan Corthell****Cpl Alan Kelly
Cpl Brandon Layell
Cpl Jeremy Manea
Cpl Andrew Mathesis
Cpl Chad Matthews
Cpl Philip Maynard
Cpl Jacob Parrett
Cpl Miranda Tilger
Cpl Pavel Tolstov
Cpl Austin Tucker
Cpl Colby White
Cpl Alexander Williams
Cpl Robert Williamson IV
Cpl Ozzy Zucco****LCpl Henry Cade
LCpl Jacob Campbell
LCpl Marshall Cataldi
LCpl Andrew Dodson
LCpl Zachary Dominguez
LCpl Robert Fudge
LCpl James Fults
LCpl Erik Greenfield
LCpl Jordan Halbisen
LCpl Braden Harris
LCpl Robert Holtz
LCpl Gregory Hutchinson
LCpl Brian Kehm
LCpl Edward Keller III
LCpl Jose Martinez
LCpl Christopher McIver****LCpl Steve Moore Jr.
LCpl Brett Morgan
LCpl Tyler Neely
LCpl Cory Preher
LCpl Andres Rave
LCpl Brent Rich
LCpl Darnell Ross
LCpl Benjamin Shedlock
LCpl David Smith
LCpl Zackary Stokes
LCpl Tommie Sutton
LCpl Joshua Wurth****PFC Derrick Taylor
PFC Joshua Johnston
PFC Wayland Cooper
PFC Richard Green
PFC Cody Jones
PFC Jeremy Hernandez
PFC Daniel Coloso**

WELCOME TO THE IRONMEN FAMILY!

Have you just recently gotten married or engaged?

Please let your Family Readiness Officer assist you with all the steps needed to become a dependent, receive base housing or BAH, the correct classes to attend and many other items you may not have even thought about!



Jill can be reached by calling 252.466.5082 or by emailing jill.buria@usmc.mil

Are you pregnant???

Have you contacted the FRO??

Its important, especially during a deployment, to let the FRO know if you are pregnant. She will ensure that you receive all the benefits you are entitled to, plus she will check in with you to see that all of your needs are met. Contact Jill today, to let her know! 252-466-5082

NEW PARENT SUPPORT

-Daddy's Baby Boot Camp/Mommy's Basic Training

Class offered the 3rd Wednesday & Thursday of each month 8:30am-3:00pm
OR a 5 week session Thursdays 11am-1:00pm

-Mom's Support Group

Offered the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month, 10-11am
Bldg 286, D Street-Please call 466-3651 for more information

-Belly Basic Class

1st Monday of every month 8:30am-noon
Space is limited, please call 466-3651 to sign-up.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

American Red

Cross:

252-637-3405

Tricare

1-877-874-2273

New Parent

Support:

252-466-3651

WIC

252-447-0123

DEERS

252-466-3330

MILITARY ONE

SOURCE

800-342-9647

Events You Don't Want to Miss!

DATE	EVENT	PLACE
April 11th, 9pm	Daughtry Concert	Ft. Bragg
April 13th, 10-11am	Deployment Support	MCFTB
April 15th, 9:30-11:30am	Self Defense	MCFTB
April 17th, 11am-1pm	MWSS-274 Calendar Making/Bowling	Strike Zone Bowling Alley
April 18th	Hershey Park Military Day	Hershey, PA
April 22nd, 5-7pm	Handy Spouse	MCFTB
April 23rd, 6-9pm	Four Lenses	MCFTB
April 28th, 9am-3pm	Spouse/Teen Job Fair	Station Theater

Congratulations to three of our IRONMEN Families for receiving tickets for the ANNUAL WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL!

The entire Marine Corps received 500 tickets and we received 10 of them!



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**Join the families of MWSS-274 at the
STARS AND STRIKES Bowling Alley on base
for a fun filled bowling afternoon!**



**We will be decorating the May calendar so come
prepared with photos to decorate the calendar
that will travel through Afghanistan.**

SATURDAY APRIL 17th

11:00am-1:00pm

Stars and Strikes is located across the street from
the Commissary off of Roosevelt Blvd. If you are
unsure where it is, let me know prior to the
event.

2 Games of bowling, shoe rental and lunch
will be provided for all participants!

Please RSVP by April 12th if you
are planning to attend so that I
can reserve enough lanes.

